

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 214221

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:PORC, SHUM, IS

SUBJECT:HUMAN RIGHTS IN OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

REF: A) TEL AVIV 5571, B) STATE 212485

1. IN MAKING PRESENTATION CALLED FOR IN REF B, EMBASSY SHOULD BE AWARE OF LATEST NATIONAL AND PROBABLY INTERNATIONAL PUBLICITY GIVEN TO VISIT BY NATIONAL LAWYERS GUILD "FACT-FINDING DELEGATION" THAT VISITED ISRAEL IN JULY. ON ITS RETURN HERE DELEGATION HELD PRESS CONFERENCE AUGUST 1, WHICH WAS GIVEN BRIEF COVERAGE BY NEW YORK TIMES. SEPTEMBER 6 ISSUES OF NEW YORK
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PAGE 02 STATE 214221

TIMES AND WASHINGTON POST CARRY FULL-PAGE ADVERTISEMENT OF ARAB INFORMATION CENTER IN NEW YORK WHICH QUOTES EXCERPTS FROM THAT PRESS CONFERENCE AND BRIEF STATEMENT BY MEMBER OF DELEGATION ATTORNEY MALEA KIBLAN.

2. NATIONAL LAWYERS GUILD IS NATIONAL ORGANIZATION OF LIBERAL/PROGRESSIVE LAWYERS, LEGAL WORKERS AND LAW

STUDENTS WHICH WAS FOUNDED IN 1937. IT CURRENTLY
CLAIMS 5,000 MEMBERS IN 70 CHAPTERS IN THE US.

3. FOLLOWING ARE RELEVANT EXCERPTS FROM THE ARAB

INFORMATION CENTER AD: "THE NATIONAL LAWYERS GUILD
GROUP CONFIRMED CHARGES BY AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL
AND THE LONDON SUNDAY TIMES THAT ISRAELI MILITARY
INTERROGATORS FREQUENTLY USE TORTURE TO EXTRACT
CONFESSIONS. NO LAWYER MAY BE PRESENT UNTIL THE
QUESTIONING HAS ENDED...LITTLE EVIDENCE BEYOND A
CONFESSION IS REQUIRED FOR CONVICTION....
CONFESSIONS ARE ORIGINALLY DRAFTED IN HEBREW (WHICH
MOST DETAINEES DO NOT KNOW), AND THERE IS NO APPEAL
OF THE COURT'S DECISION. AN ISRAELI LAWYER, LEAH
TSEMEL OF JERUSALEM, TOLD THE DELEGATION THAT 90
OF THE CONVICTIONS ARE BASED ON CONFESSIONS WITH
LITTLE CORROBORATION. TSEMEL SAID THAT THE
"CONFESSIONS" MADE BY MANY OF HER CLIENTS READ (SIC)
IN LANGUAGE THAT NO PALESTINIAN WOULD USE."

4. KIBLAN QUOTE INCLUDES FOLLOWING STATEMENT:

"...WHEN I SAW THINGS FIRST HAND I WAS TOTALLY
OVERWHELMED BY THE WAY THE ARABS ARE TREATED AS
INFERIOR PEOPLE. I DIDN'T REALLY UNDERSTAND
INSTITUTIONAL RACISM UNTIL I MADE THIS TRIP, ALTHOUGH
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WE HAVE RACISM IN THE UNITED STATES."

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